

UNCLASSIFIED

8/22/79

AA005

HUMAN RIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS

ARGENTINA RESPONDS TO US STATEMENTS

SOURCES: Buenos Aires 6782; 6803

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Exclude () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

Remarks by the State Department's spokesman on the police raids and US concern about reports of clandestine prisoners have provoked angry responses from Argentine officialdom. On August 20, Foreign Ministry officials delivered a formal protest to Ambassador Castro, labeling the State Department's comments on the police raids "inadmissible and imprudent." The protest, however, was delivered in a ~~stiff~~ nervous, apologetic manner. The Argentines were obviously concerned about preserving the ~~+~~ positive tone in bilateral relations established during Secretary Vance's recent conversation with Foreign Minister Pastor in Quito.

On August 21

On August 21, the Argentine tone changed dramatically as an enraged Foreign Minister Pastor demanded Ambassador Castro's explanation for the State ~~Department's~~ Department's comments on clandestine prisoners. Pastor warned that a more strident ~~+~~ official protest may be in the offing and said that he feared a strong wave of anti-US sentiment was ~~building~~ building in official, public and media circles.

INR Comment: The ~~stiff~~ atmosphere created by these bilateral exchanges unfortunately coincides with press reports that the IAHRC may present a "preliminary report" on ~~its~~ Argentine visit (September 6-20) to the OAS General Assembly that opens in La Paz on October 22. The prospect of such a maneuver, which would constitute a significant departure from established IAHRC procedures, will upset the Argentines who do not expect their human rights situation to be on the agenda in La Paz. Unless the

UNCLASSIFIED

LC795D444

805 1177

UNCLASSIFIED

~~RUMOR~~

rumor about a "preliminary report" is out to rest in the current heated atmosphere, pressure will mount for a last minute postponement or cancellation of the IAHRG visit.

INR?RAR: J. Buchanan

x22251 8/22/79

UNCLASSIFIED